

# *the* APACHE

FALL/WINTER 2015-2016

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF TYLER EGE™





# the APACHE

VOL. XXX, NO. 1  
FALL/WINTER 2015-2016

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



*In just a few months, we will be celebrating the 90th anniversary of Tyler Junior College. So much has changed since 1926, when voters chose to establish a junior college district to serve East Texas!*

*In August, I invited former presidents Dr. Bill Crowe and Dr. Ray Hawkins to take part in our convocation. They shared memories of their days here and painted a landscape of the evolution of TJC from the late 1960s through their tenures. We had a great time together and everyone enjoyed the visit.*

*A great many milestones were achieved during each of their tenures. Dr. Hawkins was instrumental in establishing a major campus master plan that called for construction of the student center, the health and physical education building, a new residence hall and the administration building.*

*Dr. Crowe is heralded for helping the institution navigate through its loan debt that allowed for the new buildings and for connecting TJC to major donors, many of whom still support the college financially. You can read more about their reflections in this issue of The Apache.*

*Since my arrival in 2007, we have grown in enrollment and physical plant resources. We've secured our employees' retirement future with a program that provides a safety net that was missing since the college opted out of social security in the '70s. We also improved our infrastructure, implemented a variety of safety and civility measures and developed a terrific honors program for our brightest students.*

*Each era has brought challenges and successes. But, as my predecessors said when they spoke to our faculty and staff, it is the people of TJC's past and present that make the institution what it has been and continues to be. I've never worked anywhere quite like TJC. Our founders, benefactors, alumni, faculty, staff and students are outstanding individuals. The family-like atmosphere we enjoy at TJC is like none other.*

*If you haven't been to campus in recent months, please come and walk around the main campus. You will likely be greeted by one of our ambassadors who will see to it that you're provided a guest identity lanyard. They'll probably help you navigate your way, too.*

*Don't be surprised that students, faculty and staff will greet you and open doors for you. It's what we call East Texas Friendly! It's the TJC way.*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Michael Metke".

Dr. L. Michael Metke  
President, Tyler Junior College



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**CORRECTION:** In the previous edition of *The Apache*, family members of TJC trustee David Hudson were misidentified in a photo from our Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center gala; so, we're trying again. From left: Mary Hudson, U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert, Tish Hudson, David Hudson, and Sophie Hudson. We apologize for the error.



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TJC President Dr. Mike Metke (far right) welcomed former presidents Dr. Ray Hawkins (far left) and Dr. Bill Crowe back to campus for Fall 2015 Convocation activities.

For more, see page 4.

Photo by Jessica Alexander.

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Mission Statement: To provide a comprehensive collegiate experience that is anchored in the rich traditions of a quality education, vibrant student life and community service. Accreditation: Tyler Junior College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees. Contact SACSCOC at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, telephone 404-679-4500 or at <http://www.sacscoc.org> for questions about the accreditation of Tyler Junior College. General inquiries about Tyler Junior College admission requirements, financial aid, educational programs or other offerings should be directed to the College and not the Commission. Tyler Junior College gives equal consideration to all applicants for admission, employment and participation in its programs and activities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, veteran status or limited English proficiency (LEP). Tyler Junior College respects the legal rights of each person to work and learn in an environment that is free from unlawful sexual discrimination including sexual harassment and sexual violence.



# LIVING *History*

*Former TJC presidents reflect on their years at the helm*

*By Fred M. Peters*

They each brought different talents to Tyler Junior College and served during very different times. But, the institution's last three presidents agree on one thing: It is the people that make the difference.

Dr. Ray Hawkins and Dr. Bill Crowe returned to TJC to assist current president Dr. Mike Metke in welcoming returning faculty and staff during Fall Convocation in August. They brought chuckles to the audience and shared stories of how TJC impacted their lives.

Crowe, who served as president from 1994 to 2007, and Hawkins, TJC president from 1981 to 1994, recalled decisions that helped shape the institution and times that brought significant challenges.

Following their convocation addresses, the trio walked to Jenkins Hall to pose for photographs with the statue of noted TJC president Dr. Harry Jenkins. They then held a brief news conference with area news media.

"He was a stern task-master who ran a tight ship," Hawkins said as he nodded toward the bronze statue of his predecessor Jenkins, who served as TJC president from 1947 to 1981. "He is an embodiment of the legacy of this fine institution."

During his address before faculty and staff, Crowe said he appreciated Metke's invitation to return to campus – especially being called upon to speak ahead of

Hawkins. "I'm pretty tired of following him," Crowe quipped, noting that he had followed Hawkins' tenure as TJC president, attended the Community College Leadership Program at The University of Texas after Hawkins had completed it and served as president of the Texas Association of Community Colleges a few years after Hawkins had.

Hawkins recalled his three years in the late '60s as professor of government during "yeasty times" – at the height of the civil rights movement, in the midst of the Vietnam War and following ethnic integration. The college had a growing

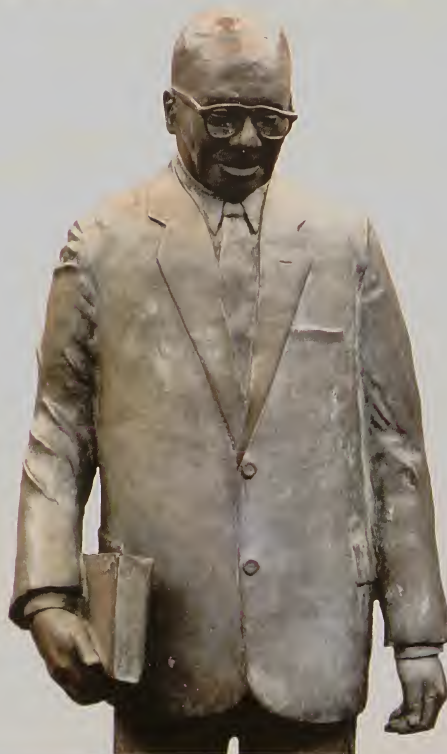
enrollment but faced challenges in its facilities and infrastructure.

Faculty members shared offices, with as many as four professors per room, and were faced with being mired in mud when walking between the two primary academic buildings, now known as Jenkins Hall and Potter Hall.

An upcoming site visit by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools – the college's accrediting body – brought changes that not only satisfied regulatory requirements but made faculty members much happier as well. During preparation for the site visit, TJC received voter approval for bonds to construct a library to replace the small room dedicated for such in the main academic building. TJC also built raised sidewalks to connect the new building to the two academic buildings.

Hawkins left TJC to enroll in the doctoral program at UT in 1970 and had not considered returning to Tyler until he received a phone call from then vice president Dr. Ed Potter in 1981, while serving as a campus dean at Tarrant County Community College. "He said 'Ray, we're looking for a new president and we would very much like to have your application.'"

Hawkins was hired by the Board of Trustees to replace the iconic Jenkins and take TJC through a new era of growth and change.







ABOVE: TJC President Dr. Mike Metke (center) and former presidents Dr. Bill Crowe and Dr. Ray Hawkins (background left and right, respectively) hold a press conference near the statue of former TJC President Dr. Harry Jenkins. BELOW: Crowe and his wife Debbie (right), are greeted by TJC alumna and longtime friend Emma Lou Prater.

"It was a great privilege to succeed him," he told TJC faculty and staff. "We had outstanding programs and an outstanding reputation."

His challenges were to establish a plan for campus growth and address shortcomings of the campus infrastructure. A new master plan was adopted and the college built a student center, new residence hall, a health and physical education facility and an administration building.

"The most important thing we did was to always have an emphasis on hiring good people," he said, citing the selection of Crowe to serve as director of campus safety in 1984. Crowe completed his doctoral degree while at TJC and served in two deans positions and as associate vice president before being selected to succeed Hawkins as president.

"Bill became my kind of utility infielder," Hawkins said. "A lot of times you move people around because you don't know what to do with them. But Bill was an exception to that, and we did move him around to fill holes. ... He was a natural choice for the Board of Trustees to replace me when I left."

Hawkins chided Crowe for his resistance to the governor's announcement in 2003 that state allocations would need to be returned to offset revenue shortfalls. Crowe had said during a meeting in Austin that the state would have to "come

to Tyler and take it" if TJC were to return state-allocated money. To his surprise, the meeting was being covered by a local newspaper reporter. During his remarks at convocation, Crowe recalled making the statement and later being told by fellow community college presidents to restrain from such remarks in the future. He also recalled having to notify members of the Board of Trustees that the 300-pound statue of Harry Jenkins had been stolen from its perch in Wise Cultural Arts Plaza, in April 1995.

Longtime board member A.D. Clark's reaction was particularly memorable, he said. "Bill, don't you have some kind of police background?" Crowe recalled Clark saying over the phone.

Crowe cited reducing college indebtedness, growing enrollment and connecting with key benefactors as accomplishments during his tenure.

During the day, all three presidents paid tribute to the college's benefactors, its supportive community, its notable alumni, Board of Trustees and its faculty and staff.

"We have amazing people here," Crowe said. "There's no place like this."

Metke thanked the presidents for their reflections. "Those of us here now get to stand on the shoulders of giants," he said. "All that you have done for this college has made our jobs so much easier." ■









# LEADING *the* CHARGE

*State Sen. Kevin Eltife recognized for crucial role in bringing bachelor's degree in dental hygiene to TJC*

*By Elise Mullinix*

Last summer, Tyler Junior College was approved by the Texas Legislature to begin offering a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene, beginning in Fall 2016.

State Sen. Kevin P. Eltife was instrumental in making that long-held dream a reality.

During their July meeting, the TJC Board of Trustees honored Eltife not only for his years of service in the legislature but particularly for his tireless support of higher education.

Approximately 200 people attended the event honoring Eltife.

Eltife, R-Tyler, was elected to the Texas Senate in early 2004 and is not seeking re-election in 2016.

"He has been a great service leader for the community and a man of principle," State Rep. Matt Schaefer, R-Tyler, said.

State Rep. Travis Clardy, R-Nacogdoches, who has served in Austin with Eltife the last two legislative sessions, quipped that Eltife is the worst politician in the history of Texas, because he refuses to do what is politically expedient and to tell people what they want to hear.

Eltife will tell them what they need to hear, and he has a habit of actually doing what he says he is going to do, Clardy said. He praised Eltife's ability to work with others, his desire to find solutions, his integrity and service.

State Rep. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, read aloud a resolution adopted by the TJC trustees that stated Eltife's key support was instrumental in passage of the dental hygiene bill, the only measure of its type to clear the senate where other baccalaureate bills for two-year colleges failed.

The board and TJC President Mike Metke presented Eltife with an honorary associate's degree in dental hygiene and named an operatory — a room for dental hygiene procedures — in his honor.

"Eltife's leadership and integrity as a public servant are unsurpassed and are evident from his many accolades," the TJC resolution read.

Some of Eltife's awards include the Association of Texas Professional Educators "Freedom to Teach" award, the "Champion for Free Enterprise" award from Texas Association of Business, and "Legislator of the Year" award from Texas Municipal League.

In his proclamation of "Senator Kevin Eltife Day," Tyler Mayor Martin Heines noted Eltife served the maximum of three, two-year terms as city council member and mayor; and during his tenure, Eltife helped the city eliminate its general obligation debt, attain a AAA bond rating and reduce the property tax rate.

After serving on the city council, Eltife continued his public service as a state senator representing District 1.

Responding to the many complimentary remarks from area dignitaries, including many college presidents from his district, Eltife said his mother was the driving force in his life that made him the success he is today.

"I am embarrassed that you are here today to thank me for doing a job that has enriched my life beyond words," he said.

"I owe all of you a thank-you for allowing me to serve in public office." ■

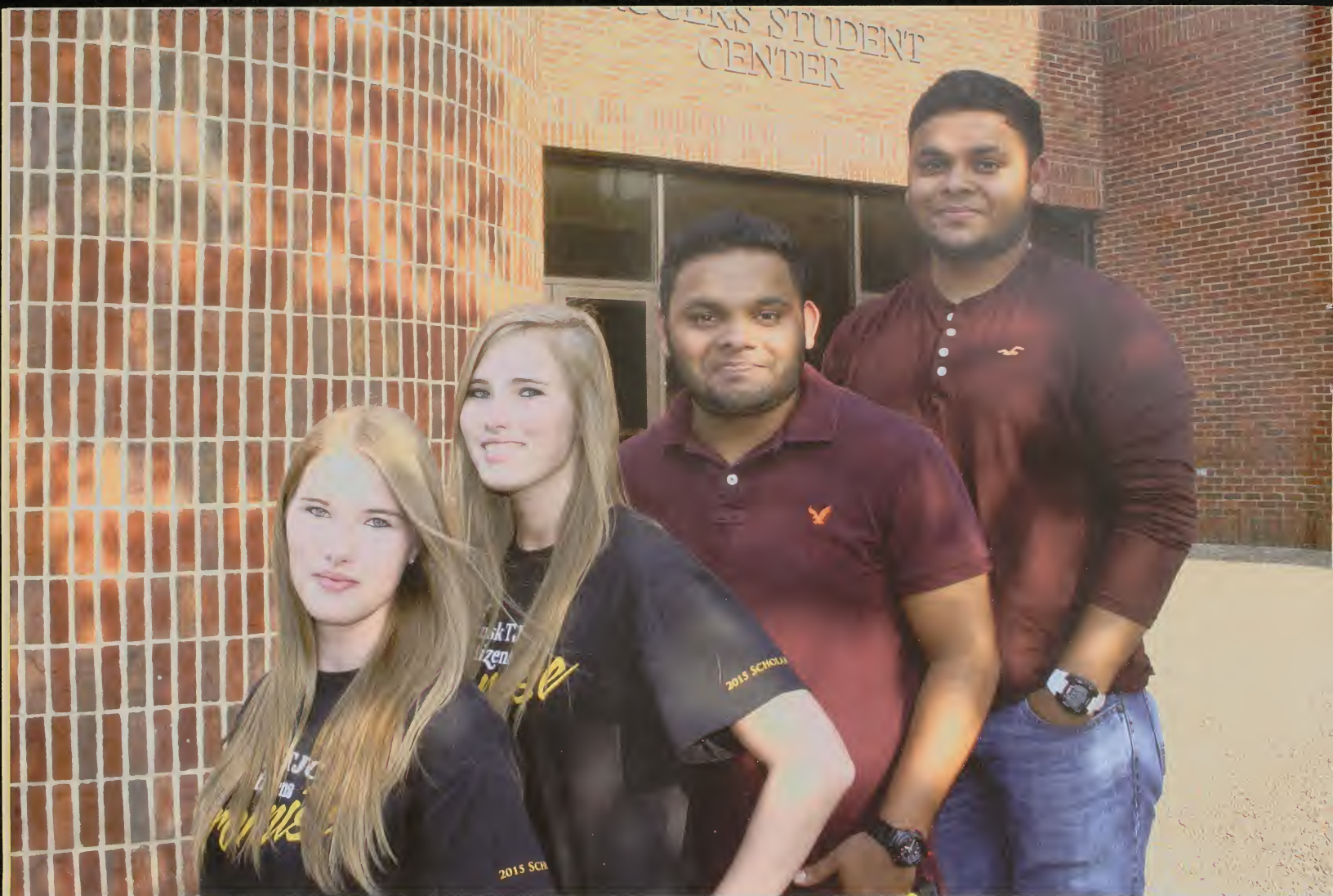
*Eltife's leadership and integrity as a public servant are unsurpassed and are evident from his many accolades.*



ABOVE: TJC Board President Dr. Joe Prud'homme (left) presents State Sen. Kevin Eltife with an honorary degree in dental hygiene from TJC. BELOW: Carrie Hobbs, TJC dental studies department chair, presents a pin to Eltife during the event. OPPOSITE PAGE: In addition to the honorary degree, a TJC dental clinic operatory — a room for dental procedures — was named in his honor.







Two sets of twins, (from left) Amanda and Allison Potter, and Mishal and Milan Patel, are part of the newest class of Rusk TJC Citizens Promise Scholars.

# Promises PROMISES

## Rusk TJC Citizens Promise class features two sets of twins

By Terrie Gonzalez

The newest class of Rusk TJC Citizens Promise scholars has TJC professors seeing double – twice.

Two sets of twins who graduated in May 2015 from Rusk High School recently completed their first semester at TJC, and they feel doubly blessed for being able to attend college without paying tuition.

Sisters Amanda and Allison Potter and brothers Milan and Mishal Patel said they had no plans to attend college until they

received scholarships from the Rusk TJC Citizens Promise – now in its second year. The Rusk Promise covers up to two years at TJC for qualifying RHS students who graduate in the top 50 percent of their class and reside in Rusk ISD.

In the class of 2015, 60 students were offered scholarships to TJC and 42 students accepted.

For the Patel twins, who were born in India, the opportunity to obtain an

associate's degree already has them thinking about the next step – a bachelor's degree. Both want to major in business, both are considering Texas A&M or the University of Houston – and they want to pursue the next academic step together at the same college.

“Without the scholarship, we would have gone from high school straight into the workforce,” the boys said. “We can see the value of an education and the earnings potential.”



Amanda and Allison are both pursuing medical career fields, but they're choosing separate paths. Allison wants to become a radiologic technologist and complete her education in two years. Amanda wants to be a diagnostic medical sonographer, focusing on sonograms and the cardiovascular system.

"Basically, if we hadn't gotten this scholarship, we wouldn't have been going to college," Amanda said.

Allison explained that for both of their career paths, they must meet freshman prerequisites before applying and receiving acceptance into their preferred medical specialties.

"We will have to apply to the programs and meet certain GPA and ACT scores," said Allison.

While the Patel brothers, who were born just 45 seconds apart, are identical twins, the Potter sisters, born one minute apart, are "mirror twins."

"Our mother didn't know we were mirror twins until she saw a Dr. Oz show," laughed Amanda.

In mirror twins, dominant traits are opposite. One twin is left-handed; the other right-handed. One parts her hair on the left, the other on the right. And when the girls get contact lenses, the prescription is the same for each girl, but reversed since the right eye of one is the same for the other sister's left and vice versa.

The Patel brothers are identical twins and both are ambidextrous – they can use both their left and right hands for fine motor skills like writing.

"We think the same thing at the same time," laughed Milan. "It just feels normal," agreed Mishal. When asked about their reaction to the Promise fund when their counselor told them about the opportunity, all four began to speak at once.

"We were so excited."

"We couldn't believe this could happen in such a small town."

While the Potter twins have always attended Rusk schools, the Patel twins said they just got lucky. Their family moved to Rusk from Galveston before their junior year in high school, and they did not know about the Promise program prior to enrolling.

One of the stipulations of the Rusk Promise is that students must have

attended Rusk High School since the beginning of their junior year.

All four chimed in at once on their gratitude to philanthropist James I. Perkins and his wife Margaret, who created and funded the scholarship program.

"There are a lot of us from Rusk High School who would not be going to college without this program," Allison said. Both sisters received \$500 scholarships each from Rotary Club, which covered the cost of textbooks. While both Potter girls are taking the exact same classes throughout the day, each had to purchase their own set of classroom books, workbooks and ebooks. "No sharing books," they laughed.

The girls are taking a hybrid class in medical terminology, which consists of half classroom, half online.

The Patel boys are taking the same classes, but at different times of the day. Their instructors get a break on identifying who is who.

They reported that their least expensive textbook was \$50, and the most expensive topped \$100.

Since they were born in India, Milan and Mishal are fluent in three languages: English, Hindi and a state language, Gujarati. They also speak some Spanish.

Milan can see himself someday as the CEO of a corporation with earnings in excess of \$100,000.

"With this scholarship we earned, it is very helpful because our parents won't have to worry about tuition. We won't have to take out loans that will have to be paid back," said Milan. "I am so glad to have this opportunity."

The Potter girls commute in the same vehicle from their home near New Summerfield each day, and the Patel boys drive from Rusk to Tyler to attend classes also in the same vehicle. When asked who the "slow poke" in the family is when it is time to leave for school, laughter erupted and the twins pointed fingers at each other.

Rusk is the only city in Texas with a Promise program, and it is only the 22nd city in the nation.

"This is the best part of my job," said Megan Cumbee, TJC coordinator of scholarship recruitment and retention, who serves as a liaison between TJC and Rusk Promise students. Ms. Cumbee is also a 2006 graduate of Rusk High School.

She said the RHS class of 2014, which was the first year of the program, included 35 students.

"Twenty-four returned for their second year," said Ms. Cumbee. Some of the 11 students graduated from technical programs such as automotive technology and others transferred to other schools.

"Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 to remain on a Promise scholarship," she said.

Ms. Cumbee recalled one student who did not do well her first semester and was not eligible for free tuition the second semester.

"The second semester she worked and paid for the tuition out of her own pocket," Cumbee said.

"She came in and was really excited when she got her grades up. She wanted to make sure she was on a path to get the scholarship reinstated for this semester. She knew she could do better."

Ms. Cumbee said it is not uncommon for parents of freshman and sophomore RHS students to call and ask questions about the program.

**"There are a lot of us from Rusk High School who would not be going to college without this program."**

*Allison Potter*

"I can already tell that the community is changing to a college mindset," said Ms. Cumbee. "No doubt this program will build and add to economic development."

She said the 2015 RHS graduates are pursuing a variety of career paths, from respiratory care and dental hygiene to nursing, sign language and game and simulation development as well as engineering and business.

As the Potters pursue medical careers and the Patels take business administration classes, they agree that free tuition for two years opened doors and opportunities they never anticipated. ■

*Terrie Gonzalez, publisher of the Rusk Cherokeean Herald, contributed this story.*



# DOUBLETIME

## Alba-Golden senior to graduate from high school and TJC simultaneously

*By Elise Mullins*

There are highly motivated students, and then there's Jaselyn Riley.

The 17-year-old Alba-Golden senior isn't just graduating from high school in May, she's also receiving her associate's degree from Tyler Junior College.

What prompted this burst of achievement? Apparently, it runs in the family.

"I always knew I wanted to take college courses in high school like my sister did," Jaselyn said. "She graduated with her associate's degree while she was in high school; but when we moved here from Wyoming last year, I wasn't sure I would be able to."

Enter Alba-Golden counselor Starla Bryant.

Bryant said Jaselyn started taking dual credit courses right away, then she wanted to take more than what the current law allowed.

Then came Texas House Bill 505, which, in a nutshell, eliminated the state's education code rules restricting the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board from allowing qualifying high school students at any grade level to take an unlimited number of dual credit courses.

Problem solved, classes approved, and TJC degree on schedule for May 2016.

"The law went into effect just when Jaselyn needed it," said Dr. Tam Nannen, TJC assistant vice president for academic affairs.

TJC offers dual-credit courses at 20 area high schools and at one of its two Early College High Schools. More than 1,500 area students were enrolled in these courses in Fall 2015; and Early College High School students have programs of study designed to help them graduate with an associate's degree and a high school diploma at the same time.



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Jaselyn Riley (center) is congratulated by Dr. Juan Mejia, TJC provost and vice president for academic and student affairs. Also pictured are her parents, Tabitha and Wade Riley (background) and Dr. Tam Nannen (far right), TJC assistant vice president for academic affairs.

"While the Texas Education Code previously limited students to 15 hours per semester and required that dual credit students be classified as juniors or seniors, removal of the restrictions now means that highly motivated students can conceivably earn an associate's degree even as they work toward their high school diploma," Nannen said.

Research shows that students who enroll for dual credit in high school are more likely to complete a high school diploma.

To take it a step further, students who begin their associate's degree in high school are more likely to complete a college program of study.

And even beyond that, students who complete an associate's degree are more likely to complete a four-year degree.

Translating that into jobs and future earnings, students who complete a certificate or degree are more likely to be hired and less likely to become unemployed; and associate's degree

**Is life on the fast track the  
right answer for all high  
school students?**

**No, but it seems to be  
a perfect fit for high  
achievers such as  
Jaselyn, who have their  
sights on finishing  
college in record time.**

graduates will earn about \$500,000 more over their lifetime than those with no post-high school degree or certificate.

Nannen adds that dual credit and Early College High School programs aren't just designed to give students a jumpstart on a college degree, they're also a bargain.

"The cost of a college degree has increased dramatically in recent years," Nannen said, "and dual credit hours are

typically less expensive for the student, thus decreasing the overall cost of a college degree."

Is life on the fast track the right answer for all high school students?

No, but it seems to be a perfect fit for high achievers such as Jaselyn, who have their sights on finishing college in record time.

"As it stands, TJC and the counselors at our partner high schools have much more latitude to decide on an individual basis how many hours of college credit the student can take for optimum success," Nannen said.

After two graduation ceremonies set for May, Jaselyn has no intention of slowing down. Next, she will focus on a bachelor's degree from the University of Wyoming, then medical school with an eye toward psychiatry.

For more on TJC's dual credit program, go to [tjc.edu/DualCredit](http://tjc.edu/DualCredit). ■



# GO APACHES

## Men's, women's soccer teams advance to national tournaments

The TJC men's and women's soccer teams made it to the championship rounds of their respective tournaments, yet both came up short of claiming another national title.

In Martinsville, Va., the men's team failed to defend their national title of 2014, losing 1-0 in a double-overtime match with No. 1 ranked Louisburg (North Carolina).

The Apaches finished the season 19-4 and have now reached the finals the last four years and six of the last seven. The Hurricanes rode a 23-game winning streak to their first national championship and a 24-1 record.

In Melbourne, Fla., the women's team entered the NJCAA Division 1 Championship match with a 17-3-1 record, having captured the NJCAA District 1 title with a 1-0 win over



Navarro College at home. But, after a first-round victory over Moraine Valley, their title hopes were dashed in the second round at the hands of defending champion Monroe College (New York). Iowa Central went on to claim the women's title, beating Eastern Florida, 1-0, in the title match.



### Football

The Apaches dropped their final two games of the season, the latter a Southwest Junior College Football Conference playoff semifinal, to finish the season at 7-3 and 4-3 in the conference.

The Apaches rolled up 5,345 yards in offense. They finished the 2015 season ranked 18th in the nation by the National Junior College Athletic Association.

### Volleyball

The Tyler Junior College Apache Ladies fell to rival Panola College, 1-23-25, 25-21, 19-25, 19-25, in the Region XIV Tournament final, on their home court of Wagstaff Gym in October, ending their season with a 24-6 mark.

They finished the year ranked No. 7 nationally.





# GO APACHES

## Sandy Terry named to Golf Coaches of America Hall of Fame



Sandy Terry

TJC head golf coach Sandy Terry was one of four coaches inducted into the Golf Coaches Association of America Hall of Fame in 2015.

Terry joined Bruce Brockbank of Brigham Young University, J.T.

Higgins of Texas A&M University and Jimmy Stobs of Barry University in the association's hall of fame class of 2015. They were honored at the GCAA Hall of Fame Reception and Awards Banquet in Las Vegas in December.

In his 33rd season of coaching, Terry has coached at TJC since 2001 after beginning his career at Lon Morris College in 1983. Over his career he has claimed

two national championships, advanced to the NJCAA National Championships 23 times, produced 47 All-Americans and three NJCAA medalists.

Terry led Lon Morris to four Region XIV championships and nine appearances at the NJCAA National Championships. Seven golfers earned All-American honors. Additionally, Terry's players earned All-Region honors 25 times and six claimed individual conference championships and one state title.

Terry has found even greater success at TJC, leading the Apaches to national championships in 2003 and 2008. He has led Tyler to 10 Region XIV titles and a Texas State Championship in 2006. Under Terry's direction the Apaches have qualified for the NJCAA Division II National Championship for 14 consecutive seasons. A total of 25 of his Tyler golfers have earned NJCAA All-America honors with an 12 PING

All-America honorees. Three times his players have earned medalist honors at NJCAA nationals with two earning the Arnold Palmer National Individual Champion Award, and 42 Apaches have earned NJCAA All-Region honors and 10 claimed PING All-Region accolades.

Terry also coaches Tyler's women's squad. Under his direction they have claimed 11 Region XIV championships, advanced to the NJCAA national tournament 14 straight years, produced 14 All-Americans and 12 individual conference champions.

Terry was elected to the NJCAA Hall of Fame in 2001 and serves as the NJCAA Men's Division II Coaches Association vice president.

He serves as a voting member of the Bushnell/Golfweek Coaches Poll and on the GCAA NJCAA Division II West Region Committee.

## Palmer inducted into Tyler ISD Athletics Hall of Fame



Danny Palmer

TJC head football coach Danny Palmer was one of five inductees in the Tyler ISD Athletics Hall of Fame.

They were selected based on their high school achievements, post high school accomplishments and other contributing factors.

Inductees were: Willie Campbell, Emmett Scott High School, football; Bob Faulkner, contributor; Palmer, John Tyler High School, football and baseball; Edwin Rollins II, Robert E. Lee High School, track and football; and Harry Shuford, John Tyler High School, football.

Each of these five inductees has made a lasting impact on Tyler ISD athletics and the City of Tyler, Tyler ISD Athletic Director Greg Priest said.

The hall of fame inductees were recognized at a ceremony Friday, Sept. 11, before the John Tyler vs. Robert E. Lee football game at Trinity Mother Frances Rose Stadium.

To be considered for the Tyler ISD Athletics Hall of Fame, an athlete or contributor must be nominated. To nominate someone for the 2016, class visit [tylerisd.org](http://tylerisd.org) and click on Athletics for a nomination form. Athletes, coaches and contributors must have graduated or no longer be a part of the school district for at least five years before being considered.

Palmer is a 1967 graduate of John Tyler High School, where he played football, basketball and baseball.

He played quarterback for three years for Johnny Stidger at John Tyler and lettered three years in three sports. He was named to the all-state baseball team in 1967, coached by the late Dr. Billy Jack Doggett and helped lead the Lions to the state baseball tournament.

While attending The University of Southern Mississippi, Palmer started two years as quarterback. He received his master's degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

He has been a high school and college football coach for more than 40 years, currently in his ninth season as the Tyler Junior College head coach.

For more news on TJC athletics, visit [www.ApacheAthletics.com](http://www.ApacheAthletics.com).



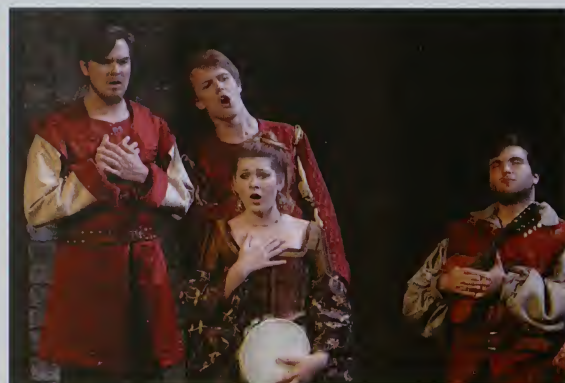
**TJC HOMECOMING 2015: 'UNMASK YOUR SPIRIT AND FEEL THE BEAT'**



Go to [tylerjuniorcollege.smugmug.com](http://tylerjuniorcollege.smugmug.com) for galleries of all TJC events! You might see yourself!



**THEATRE TJC: 'ANNE OF THE THOUSAND DAYS'**



**HARMONY & UNDERSTANDING: POPS CONCERT**



Go to [tylerjuniorcollege.smugmug.com](http://tylerjuniorcollege.smugmug.com) for galleries of all TJC events! You might see yourself!



**THEATRE TJC: 'THE 25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE'**



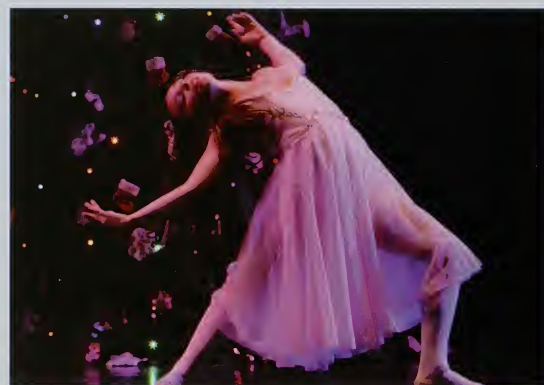
**TJC CHAMBER SINGERS AND CONCERT CHOIR: 'CHRISTMAS DOWNTOWN'**



Go to [tylerjuniorcollege.smugmug.com](http://tylerjuniorcollege.smugmug.com) for galleries of all TJC events! You might see yourself!



TJC ACADEMY OF DANCE: 'THE NUTCRACKER'



Go to [tylerjuniorcollege.smugmug.com](http://tylerjuniorcollege.smugmug.com) for galleries of all TJC events! You might see yourself!



# FOUNDATION NEWS



The permanent Endowment Wall of Honor will be installed this year in the lobby of the Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center, replacing this temporary version that has held its place since the building opened in 2015. Names are emphasized within the display, according to level of endowment gift, beginning at \$10,000.

## Investing in people, investing in the future

By Brian Anderson

In 2016, a permanent Endowment Wall of Honor will be installed in the lobby of the Robert M. Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center at TJC. Over time, it is hoped the entire wall will be filled with names of those honored with endowments supporting students and health care programs at the college.

Names are emphasized within the lobby display according to level of endowment gift, beginning at \$10,000.

"It's a wonderful tribute to the donors and their love for higher education," said D.M. Edwards, who established the Davida M. Edwards Nursing Scholarship Endowment in memory of his mother. He also gave to name the department chair's office for the associate degree of nursing program.

Endowments that support the Rogers center provide ongoing funding to address the needs of the college's burgeoning health care programs. Endowed funds are invested within the overall endowment of the Tyler

Junior College Foundation, which has surpassed \$42 million in assets. It contains individual funds that provide yearly monies to support TJC scholarships and programs as specified by contributors. The earnings are distributed annually for each endowed fund based on the spending policy of the TJC Foundation. The principal of each fund is invested in perpetuity, meaning that the principal is never spent.

"The TJC Foundation handles funds wisely," Edwards said. "A fully funded endowment is the 'gift that keeps on giving.'"



Davida M. Edwards

Behind every endowment is a story of love, generosity and hope. Here are three inspiring stories from the wall.

### Davida M. Edwards Nursing Scholarship Endowment

Davida Edwards was a native Texan, devoted wife and mother, and longtime church leader in Houston and Tyler. She was also vice president of Edwards and Associates with her husband, Welby C. Edwards, as well as other business ventures. She supervised the work of public schools in a 14-county region for the Texas Education Association. When Dr. Harry Jenkins, then president of TJC, wanted to establish the East Texas School of Nursing, he called on Mrs. Edwards for help. She recruited the first class of students, and her legacy lives on in TJC's nursing program today.

The scholarship in Davida's name will benefit students in TJC's associate degree in nursing program. Recipients will be



# FOUNDATION NEWS

graduates from a high school in Smith County who are exceptionally well-rounded students. Equal consideration will be given to academic achievement, community involvement and financial need.

"Attending TJC first was a great choice for my father, and it was a great decision for me, too," said Edwards. "We both received excellent preparation for advanced collegiate studies and success in business. Now I'm honored to be able to contribute to TJC's programs and initiatives."

## **Dr. Sherilyn and Patrick Willis Scholarship Endowment for Nursing and Health Sciences**

This endowment was funded by Barbara Shtofman in memory of her late husband, Norman, because of his passion for education.

"Sherilyn and Patrick were very special to Norman, as they are to me. I know he would be thrilled having this scholarship named for them," she said. She has also given a gift to name a student conference and group study room within the facility to honor her late husband. Norman was a well-respected community leader in Tyler and served as mayor from 1982 to '84.

The Willises met at TJC and served in the student senate together. Sherilyn went on to Texas A&M for undergraduate and then medical school. She is a successful practicing obstetrician and gynecologist and



*Dr. Sherilyn and Patrick Willis*



*Dr. Ben and Maytee Fisch*

is partner/owner of Four Seasons Women's Health Clinic in Tyler. After completing his studies at TJC, Patrick went to UT Tyler and earned a degree in communications and public relations. He is president and CEO of Abegg Willis & Associates, a non-profit consulting firm.

Both are widely known for their volunteer service and their generous support of many worthy causes in Tyler. Patrick's community work was recognized when he received the 2014 W.C. Windsor Award, which honors an outstanding Tyler citizen under age 40.

"They are both very successful in their professions and generously contribute with their philanthropy, time and talents for the greater good of our community," Shtofman said.

"I was awarded the Robert M. Rogers Presidential Scholarship," said Sherilyn, "and their belief in me meant so much!" The Willis scholarship will benefit well-rounded students participating in TJC nursing or other health sciences programs, and who have excelled academically and exhibit high moral character.

"Over the years we have witnessed and heard so many success stories coming from people who got their educational start at TJC," Shtofman said. "They are people

who are making a difference across the U.S. and globally. Norman always said, 'When you invest in people, you invest in the future.' Ultimately, investing in people is the compass for our future."

## **Dr. Ben and Maytee Fisch Nursing Scholarship Endowment**

Ben and Maytee Fisch met at UT Austin where they studied pharmacology together, before Ben went on to the Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, got his degree and founded the Allergy Clinic in Tyler in 1960. They were members of many civic organizations and worked diligently to improve the lives of others.

The Fisches would eventually establish their own family foundation, which broadly benefits educational institutions and non-profit organizations throughout Tyler and East Texas. They were awarded the Patriot of the Year award from UT Tyler in 2002. Ben was also recognized with the Golden Cane award from the Tyler Medical Society for his 25 years of dedicated practice.

This endowment was established through the Gatewood-Hawkins Foundation by Virginia Gatewood. The Gatewoods have generously supported TJC and its students and have funded 63 annual scholarships and nine scholarship endowments.

For the past several years, the Gatewood-Hawkins Foundation has funded TJC endowed scholarships to honor legacy leaders of the community. "Ben and Maytee were such giving people," said Virginia Gatewood, "and Ben was widely respected by patients and doctors in Tyler. It is rewarding that Jim and I can honor Ben and Maytee while providing scholarships to aspiring healthcare workers."

The Fisch scholarship will support deserving students participating in TJC's associate degree nursing program.

Endowments provide a way to extend the legacy of a friend or loved one and ensure the future of TJC students, programs and the community in perpetuity. For more information, please contact Mitch Andrews at 903-510-2034, or [mand@tjc.edu](mailto:mand@tjc.edu).



# FOUNDATION NEWS

## Two scholarships established in honor of Dr. Kimberly A. Russell

For 16 years, Tyler Junior College benefitted from the leadership of Dr. Kimberly A. Russell.

Russell, former TJC vice president for advancement and external affairs and executive director of the TJC Foundation, was named chancellor of Louisiana State University-Eunice last summer and began her duties there in September 2015.

In the weeks leading up to her departure in late August, family and friends contributed more than \$35,000 to create the Dr. Kimberly A. Russell Scholarship Endowment; and longtime TJC Foundation board member and Apache Band alumnus Harold Beard established the Dr. Kimberly A. Russell Presidential Honors Scholarship, in honor of her years of dedicated service.

"I am both humbled and honored to have received such wonderful gifts from my family and dear friends from Tyler," Russell said.

"In particular, I would like to thank Harold and Rosemary Beard for their friendship and support over the last 16 years. Tyler Junior College is a very special place, and Tyler will always be home to me."

Russell joined TJC in 1999 as executive director of the TJC Foundation. During her tenure, the foundation grew to more



Dr. Kim Russell

than \$47 million in assets and has become a significant resource for TJC students, faculty and programs.

In 2005, she added the role of vice president for advancement and external affairs. She managed 10 operational units of the college, including advancement, scholarships, alumni affairs, marketing, public affairs and legislative affairs, among others.

Under her guidance, TJC developed an advancement program that is considered a national leader. TJC has garnered multiple fundraising awards, most recently the 2015 Sustained Excellence in Educational Fundraising Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE.) This honor recognizes educational institutions that have received consecutive annual fundraising awards. TJC has been honored by CASE for three years and earned the "sustained excellence" distinction.

## Annual employee campaign participation increases by 41 percent

TJC's annual employee campaign kicked off at fall convocation in August 2015. Over the next six weeks, 352 employees pledged \$70,529 in support of TJC and the United Way of Smith County.

Overall participation among full-time TJC employees was 52.07 percent. According to the 2014 CASE Survey of Community College Foundations, the average participation rate among full-time employees in annual faculty/staff campaigns is 37 percent.

"I am continually amazed at the generosity of our faculty and staff," said Shelby Gould, TJC director of advancement operations and annual giving, who leads the campaign efforts.

"They genuinely care about TJC students and that shows in the results of their financial giving."

The Promises to Keep Scholarship has become one of the most popular avenues for support. All gifts and pledges to the Promises

### 2015-2016 EMPLOYEE CAMPAIGN RESULTS

	2014-2015	2015-2016	Percentage Change
# of participants (overall)	247	352	42.51%
# of participants (full-time)	240	340	41.67%
# of participants (part-time/retirees)	7	12	71.43%
% participation (based on F/T employees)	36.92%	52.07%	41.02%
Pave the Way (Rogers NHS)	\$ 27,487	\$ -	n/a
Promises Scholarship	\$ 14,560	\$ 31,032	113.13%
Annual Fund	\$ 6,691	\$ 10,166	51.94%
Other Programs	\$ 5,215	\$ 19,570	275.26%
United Way	\$ 7,133	\$ 9,761	36.84%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$61,086</b>	<b>\$70,529</b>	<b>15.46%</b>

Scholarship are immediately awarded the following spring semester. This year, 31 students received \$1,000 each to assist with tuition, fees and books during spring 2016. That amount provides a significant source of funding for a TJC student.



# FOUNDATION NEWS

## Beaird scholarships keep TJC band program playing on

*By Becost Anderson*

Every great tradition starts with key people and a big idea.

Tyler Junior College's Apache Band and the Apache Belles were born in the summer of 1947 as a result of the devoted efforts of legacy leaders of the college including Doc Witt, Mildred Stringer, Al Gilliam and a TJC student, Harold Beaird, among others.

It was Beaird who helped recruit the first band members from TJC students, Tyler High School students and returning military servicemen. He was just 16 at the time, and the challenge to form the band shaped his life and put him on the path to success. Beaird was given a scholarship and enjoyed every minute of his time at the college and in the band. He also never forgot what it meant to him to receive that scholarship and encouragement.

Beaird's love of the TJC band program has continued over six decades, and he was honored during the donor scholarship luncheon held Nov. 11 at the Green Acres CrossWalk Conference Center in Tyler. The annual luncheon gives scholarship recipients an opportunity to meet those who have given to fund their scholarships. A video shown at the luncheon gave insights into Beaird's involvement in those first days of the Tyler Junior College band and Apache Belles.

"It was very exciting to be there, helping what became major traditions at TJC," Beaird said.

What began as a wonderful introduction to his time at TJC transformed into his lifelong passion of helping others further their education by providing scholarships to students following in his footsteps. To date, Beaird has funded 16 endowed scholarships with the Tyler Junior College Foundation, including 14 to support the TJC Apache Band.

Beaird recently established eight new Presidential Honors Scholarships, which cover the full cost of tuition and fees for two years for each student recipient. To qualify for these scholarships, students must be accepted into TJC's growing Honors Program and rank in the top 10 percent of their high school class; rank in the top 10 position of their high school class and show college readiness; or demonstrate a high grade-point average and ACT or SAT test scores.

To qualify for the new Presidential Honors Scholarships given by Beaird, students must also participate in the TJC Apache Band. These eight scholarships have been funded in part from the estate of his late daughter, Beverly Ann Beaird, a former educator. Beverly graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University with a teaching degree and taught elementary school in Houston and Tyler for many years. She enjoyed teaching history and exposing her students to the rich local history. Building on that legacy, three of the scholarships her father has funded bear her name.

Beaird's Presidential Honors Scholarships recognize individuals who have been influential in the continued success and growth of Tyler Junior College and the TJC Apache Band.



TJC band alumnus Harold Beaird speaks during the 2015 TJC Scholarship Luncheon, held Nov. 11 in the Green Acres CrossWalk Conference Center. To date, Beaird has funded 16 endowed scholarships with the TJC Foundation, including 14 to support the Apache Band. For more photos from the scholarship luncheon, see Pgs. 22 and 23.

They include:

- C.C. "Pinky" Baker, Jr. Presidential Honors Scholarship
- Beverly Ann Beaird Presidential Honors Scholarships
- Harold & Rosemary Beaird Presidential Honors Scholarship
- Preston Haynes Presidential Honors Scholarship
- Dick Johns Presidential Honors Scholarship
- Ellen Matthews Presidential Honors Scholarship
- Thomas H. "Tom" Mensch, III Presidential Honors Scholarship
- Dr. Kimberly A. Russell Presidential Honors Scholarship

Harold Beaird's life was changed for the better because he had the opportunity to attend Tyler Junior College, recruited other band members and played under the direction of the legendary Doc Witt. His goal today is to make the same life-changing combination of education and band involvement available to other young people at TJC.

The ongoing success of the Apache Band and Apache Belles owes a great deal to the generous support of Harold Beaird and other donors. The ongoing enthusiasm of future generations will indeed ensure that the band plays on.

For information concerning giving opportunities for endowed scholarships including the Presidential Honors Scholarship program, please contact Mitch Andrew at [mand@tjc.edu](mailto:mand@tjc.edu) or (903) 510-2034.



# FOUNDATION NEWS

## 2015 SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON



Harold and Rosemary Beard with scholarship recipients Jacy Canfield, Kailee Weaver and Taylor Tevebaugh.



Lou Ornelas with scholarship recipients Alexes Bell, Charles Thompson, Hannah Chase, Natalie Womble and Shelby Click.



D.M. Edwards with scholarship recipient Chelsea Porter.



Herb and Melvina Buie with scholarship recipient Miranda Royman.



David and Amy McCullough with scholarship recipient Alice Beaver.



Bob and Beth Faulkner with scholarship recipients Haley Huston, Ramiro Fernandez and Erin Flowers.



# FOUNDATION NEWS

## 2015 SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON



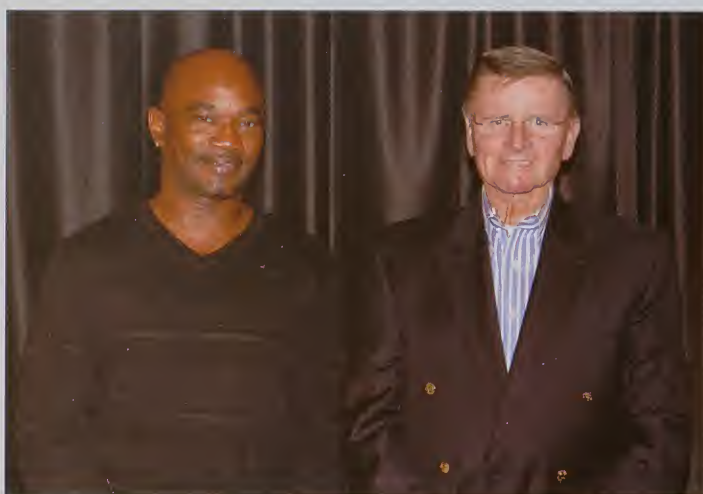
Jack Sweeny with scholarship recipients Lindy Spurgers and Courtney Aldredge.



Teresa Owen with scholarship recipients Misty Welborn and Jovie Palmer.



Bonnie Rayford with scholarship recipient Nadia Arreola.



Jim Lozier with scholarship recipient Daniel Key.



Virginia Gatewood with scholarship recipients Randall Carver, Ross Thorn, Mikayla Golden, Kristen Thomas, Chara Christopher, Kandice West and Anel Gonzalez.



Chris and Thomas Shelby with scholarship recipients Shelby Frauenberger and Taylor Agnew.



# FOUNDATION NEWS

## A gentleman and a scholar: Celebrating the generous spirit of Vernon Faulconer

By Lindal M. Peters

Vernon Faulconer helped a generation of minority students access the great equalizer – higher education – and more than 250 of them have graduated with a bachelor's degree or higher.

"Vernon Faulconer was known for taking a long-term view and I think we should do the same," said Matthew Ramirez, director of the Faulconer Scholarship Program. "His legacy will be seen in the lives and contributions of his Faulconer Scholars long into the future."

A clever, unique and humble man, Faulconer passed away Aug. 7 in Dallas.

The founder of an oil and gas firm that originated with a small bank loan he used to begin buying and selling oil and gas leases and used drilling equipment, Faulconer emerged to tremendous business success. Vernon E. Faulconer Inc. operates hundreds of wells in nine states, with offices in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana.

Faulconer's interest in improving the lives and futures of minority young people led him to establish the Faulconer Academic Incentive Award for Minority Students at TJC in 1990. Always interested in helping others, Faulconer knew his contributions could have a significant impact on the lives

of hundreds of young people. He himself had been assisted by his high school librarian, who provided funds so that he could attend Grinnell College in Iowa.

Since 1990, 699 students have attended TJC on a Faulconer scholarship. There are currently 161 students attending colleges and universities with the assistance of the program, which allows students to receive funding for up to six years.

In 2004, Faulconer opened an office for the scholarship program and expanded it to include all Texas colleges and universities. Still, a majority of students chose to begin their studies at TJC, with only about 10 percent beginning at a four-year institution.

Eight Faulconer scholars are currently in graduate school; two graduates have completed doctoral degrees, including one who is a medical doctor; two Faulconer



Vernon Faulconer

graduates are lawyers; and more than a dozen have completed master's degrees in business administration.

"Vernon Faulconer believed soundly in the Jeffersonian Model, that education of the masses is the most critical element in a successful society," said TJC President Dr. Mike Metke. "Vernon wanted to make certain that students of color were encouraged and embraced in their pursuit of academic credentials. He was a truly unique individual and his passing is a great loss."

With his passing, the Faulconer Scholarship Program ceased awarding new scholarships but continues to provide support and funding for scholars currently attending colleges and universities in Texas. When those students complete their degrees, the Faulconer Scholarship Program will conclude its operation.

In addition to his leadership of the scholarship program, Faulconer was a longtime member of the board of Grinnell College, his alma mater. He also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Dallas Museum of Art and was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Chinati Foundation.

## Five annual scholarships established through TJC Foundation

Annual scholarships play an important role in closing the financial gap for many students at Tyler Junior College.

Sincere thanks to the following individuals and organizations for establishing annual scholarships with the TJC Foundation:

- **Apache Belle Gold Pow Wow Annual Scholarship** established by the Apache Belle Gold, to reward a second year Apache Belle who demonstrates outstanding leadership, work ethic and initiative during the week of Pow Wow Camp.

- **Apache Belle Gold East Texas Chapter Annual Scholarship** established by the Apache Belle Gold East Texas Chapter to provide financial assistance to a current Apache Belle.

- **J.V. Fagg Jr. Annual Scholarship** established by Barbara Skidmore Fagg in memory of her late husband who was a member of the Apache marching band in 1953 under the direction of Eddie Fowler. The scholarship will provide financial assistance to current members of the band.

- **Barbara McGraw Annual Scholarship** established by Barbara's former TJC classmates in honor of her outstanding contribution to the dental hygiene community. Barbara McGraw is a 1986 graduate of the TJC dental hygiene program.

- **Megan C. Parrish Memorial Annual Scholarship** established in memory of Megan by family and friends to benefit deserving students at TJC. Priority consideration will be given to students enrolled in a nursing or health sciences program.



# FOUNDATION NEWS

## A legacy of beauty: TJC gardens serve as living tributes

By Becca Anderson

The Tyler Junior College campus is known for its beautiful architecture surrounded by verdant grounds and gardens. The gardens are privately funded and provide a wonderful enhancement to TJC's campus for students, faculty and community visitors. Two recent estate gifts are providing a legacy of beauty that will bloom in perpetual memory of those who gave.

### Ina Pearl Riggs Brundrett

Ina Brundrett was one of the original members of the TJC Botanical Gardens advisory committee that helped develop a master plan for a series of gardens on the main campus.

The project focuses on developing gardens that utilize unused space and serve as educational attractions for enjoyment of students, faculty, staff and visitors. Naud Burnett, a renowned landscape architect from Dallas, designed the original master plan.



Ina Brundrett

Ina's passion for azaleas resulted in the first garden at TJC, the Ina Brundrett Azalea Garden, established in 1995 due to her generous contribution and matching funds from

Exxon Mobil Foundation. Over time, with Ina's continued gifts and leadership, the garden has been expanded twice and is now included in Tyler's annual Azalea Trails. It features more than 175 varieties of azaleas, including the largest display of Encore Azaleas planted in drifts in East Texas.

"Mother's life was spent with Texas Garden Clubs, which focus on education and beautification," said Lynne Maddox, Brundrett's daughter. Ina's Tyler backyard was declared a wildlife habitat by Texas Parks

and Wildlife and the National Wildlife Federation.

"She set up scholarships with TJC, the Boy Scouts of America, Texas Garden Clubs and numerous educational facilities in Texas all meant to further the education of young people."

Her wish was to maintain and grow the Brundrett Azalea Garden at TJC, so she provided a generous bequest in her will.

"The East Texas soil is perfect for growing azaleas," Maddox said. "She was very pleased when a donor gave a number of azalea plants to be placed in the garden. She never said what her favorite variety was, but she loved bright pinks."

"It was her hope and mine that TJC maintain the garden and improve it as the years go on. She would want to see it flourish and be a source of beauty to the college and the City of Tyler."

Ina Brundrett passed away in June 2015. Her estate gift funds an endowment that will ensure the continuation of her work on the TJC campus and the horticultural education emphasis that was so important to her.

### Mary Gayle Smith

Mary Gayle Smith left a significant planned gift through a Charitable Remainder Trust to establish an endowment for the preservation and growth of all the gardens at Tyler Junior College. In addition, one specific garden will honor her late son, Stewart, an East Texas landscaper who left a living impression on the community.

The garden area featured at the entrance of TJC's Center for Earth & Space Science Education will be named for Smith. This area features native Texas plantings and includes educational plazas surrounding the facility. These include the Niblack Family sundial built with Texas granite, which displays the theory of analemma, and the phases of the moon scored in concrete. The plazas frequently host events for the center, including community stargazing.

Longtime friend Carol Lott met Mary Gayle when they took the same cruise to the Caribbean. They remained friends and traveled together for 15 years, until Mary's death in 2013.



Mary Gayle Smith

"Her yard was an oasis of plants, benches, statues and yard art," Lott said. "She always had fresh flowers throughout her home and was passionate about gardens and bringing outdoor beauty inside."

Lott was unsure whether Mary Gayle's passion inspired her son or the other way around. Either way, it was a deep family interest.

"Stewart was the light of Mary's life," said Lott. "She was so proud of his accomplishments in landscaping. He lived in the Azalea District, loved antiques and beautiful furnishings and built lasting relationships with the people whose gardens and lawns he tended. Mary would hope that TJC students would see the gardens and develop an appreciation for the art of gardening."

### Passionate giving

Giving through planned or deferred gifts can significantly impact Tyler Junior College and its students. It is also a way to continue a lifetime passion and pass it on to future generations, as Ina and Mary Gayle have done through their legacy of beauty. There are many ways to establish such gifts to maximize funding and support specific interests.

For more information about planned and deferred giving, contact Mitch Andrews at (903) 510-2034 or [mand@tjc.edu](mailto:mand@tjc.edu).



# FOUNDATION NEWS

## Scholarship golf tournament surpasses \$100,000 goal

By Lisa M. Papp

When the community advisory committee for the Tyler Junior College Foundation golf tournament began its work in 2005, the members were given the task of making it the area's premier, annual tournament and to take it from a "friend-raising" or "friend-thanking" event to a fund-raiser.

This year's Azalea Orthopedics Scholarship Golf Tournament Benefitting the TJCF Foundation – the 28th tournament overall and 10th since the establishment of the advisory committee – proved the group's hard work has paid off. The tournament raised more than \$100,000 in sponsorships – money that will be used for scholarships to deserving TJCF students.

"The tournament benefits from a dedicated community advisory committee," said Claude Henry, who chaired the 2015 committee. "Several members have served since the group was first established. This year's committee did a tremendous job in helping to reach and exceed the \$100,000 sponsorship goal."

Mitch Andrews, interim executive director of advancement and alumni affairs and the TJCF Foundation, said the committee did not hesitate to establish its lofty goal despite having set a previous record in 2014.

"The 2014 tournament exceeded its goal of raising \$80,000 in sponsorships," he said. "Our committee knew that they were setting the bar high at \$100,000, but they delivered. Their work has truly been remarkable."

Sponsor support has grown 25 percent over the last two years, he said.

Henry said that's because local community members and businesses realize that they are making a wise investment when supporting TJCF scholarships. "With the college's affordable tuition and fees, your dollar goes a long way at TJCF and can significantly impact students," he said.

In recent years the tournament luncheon has featured students who are recipients of



Golf tournament advisory committee includes (from left): Loren Bennett, Claude Henry, Brian McCabe, Bruce Thomson, Gary Ables, Eleanor Stringer, Lee Browning, Darin Newhouse, Brenda Thomas, Robert Gentry and Paul Latta.

golf tournament scholarships. Each student is introduced to the audience and this year four students were surprised as recipients of a generous \$5,000 scholarships underwritten by Corporate Scholar Sponsorships.

"In the past, we have had special guest speakers at the luncheon and those were well-received, but players and sponsors enjoy hearing from students and seeing the impact of the tournament," Andrews said.

Sixty-four students were introduced at the 2015 luncheon, held Sept. 10 at Hollytree Country Club.

The 2015 Corporate Scholar Sponsors are: Allen Samuels Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram of Tyler; Delek Refining; HGR/Turner Joint Venture; and Express Employment Professionals. Corporate Scholarships are awarded to students based upon classroom and community achievements. Second year Corporate Scholar students are: Natalia Lopez (Allen Samuels); Chance Selvidge (Delek); and Taylor Pyle (HGR Turner). New Corporate Scholar students are: Briana Nguyen (Express); Zachary Terrien (Allen Samuels); Abby Rhodes (Delek); and Uche Nwasuruba (HGR/Turner).

Students receiving \$1,000 scholarships in 2015 were: Laura Adams, pre-nursing

major, Tyler; Brittney Baxter, music major, Jacksonville; Audrie Beard, vocational nursing major, Lindale; Alyssa Blanton, biology major, Whitehouse; Samuel Brinlee, engineering major, Quitman; Chelsea Brown, social work major, Mineola; James Brown, music major, Overton; Diana Camacho, respiratory care major, Mineola; Kendall Carroll, dental hygiene major, Rusk; Adela Castillo, dental hygiene major, Jacksonville; Tyler Cole, speech/communications major, Whitehouse; Cari Colglazier, visual communications major, Flint; Zachary Cooke, computer science major, Lindale; Shannon Cooper, psychology major, Tyler; Azriel Cornelio, engineering major, Tyler; Maria Cornelio, radio and TV broadcast journalism major, Tyler; Hayden Dees, engineering major, Lindale; David Denton, law enforcement academy, Tyler; Gavin Downing, biology major, Tyler; Barry Duncan, associate degree nursing major, Winona; Kathia Esparza, biology major, Tyler; Jessica Espinosa, criminal justice major, Tyler; Sarai Garay, pre-nursing major, Tyler; Karisma Garcia, diagnostic medical sonography major, Lindale; Devin Gilbert, general studies major, Tyler; Stephanie Gonzalez, biology major, Tyler; Elizabeth Helms, psychology major, Grand Saline; Dakota Hiatt, pre-



# FOUNDATION NEWS



64 recipients of tournament scholarships helped host the annual event at Hollytree County Club.

dental hygiene major, Tyler; Dalton Hiett, medical laboratory technology major, Tyler; Brittney Hogan, pre-nursing major, Tyler; Justin Hopkins, surveying and mapping major, Van; Jodeci Jenkins, theatre major, Van; Brady Johnson, surveying and mapping major, Whitehouse; Ashlee King, general studies major, Arp; Natalia Lopez, associate degree nursing major, Tyler; Jacqueline Loyola, occupational therapy assistant major, Jacksonville; Matthew Marta, business major, Flint; Crystal McClosky, vocational nursing major, Rusk; Olivia Miller, pre-diagnostic medical sonography major, Mineola; Brady Neely, general studies major, Lindale; Briana Nguyen, biology major, Tyler; Uche Nwasuruba, general studies major, Tyler; Jessica Otto, associate degree nursing major, Tyler; Katelynn Parker, pre-occupational therapy assistant major, Tyler; Taylor Pyle, education major, Whitehouse; Juana Ramirez, medical laboratory technology

major, Quitman; Anayeli Rangel, medical laboratory technology major, Jacksonville; Abby Rhodes, business major, Bullard; Fernando Rios LVN-ADN transition



Zachary Terrien reacts enthusiastically when recognized as an Allen Samuels Corporate Scholar during the pre-tournament luncheon.

major, Tyler; Erik Romero, engineering major, Tyler; Charles Rowden, biology major, Troup; Brooke Ruiz pre-dental hygiene major, Flint; Morgan Samford, social work major, Whitehouse; Leslie Sanchez, vocational nursing major, Tyler; Jacob Savage, radio and TV broadcasting major, Frankston; Chance Selvidge, pre-nursing major, Whitehouse; Noah Shelton theatre major, Lindale; Kayla Stewart, education major, Jacksonville; Zachary Terrien, music major, Lindale; Melissa Vega Ramirez, pre-nursing major, Tyler; April Washington, LVN-ADN transition major, Tyler; John Wiener, law enforcement academy, Tyler; Nicholas Wilkerson, music major, Canton; and Clay Wood, speech/communications major, Tyler.

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# FOUNDATION NEWS





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# ONCAMPUS

## Lessner, Andrews promoted to TJC leadership positions

Tyler Junior College President Dr. Mike Merke has announced two promotions within the college's leadership, effective Jan. 1.

Kimberly Lessner, director of the Center for Earth & Space Science Education at TJC, has been named interim executive director of marketing, media and communications.

Mitch Andrews, TJC executive director of advancement and alumni affairs, has been named interim executive director of institutional advancement and the TJC Foundation.

Lessner joined the college as TJC science center director in May 2015, with primary responsibility for its overall leadership, management, planning and fundraising activities. In addition to her continuing role as science center director, she takes the helm of TJC's marketing, media and communications department, which includes an eight-member staff responsible for the college's marketing, public relations, creative services, editorial and web development.

Before joining TJC, Lessner served as development director for PATH in Tyler. Prior to moving to Tyler, her corporate business experience focused on market strategy and business development, with more than 25 years of experience. She was chief marketing officer at Protection One and vice president of marketing at



Kimberly Lessner



Mitch Andrews

Verizon Communications in New York. Her earlier experiences include strategic marketing and business development positions at Nissan Motor Corporation and Sears, Roebuck & Company.

Lessner is a graduate of the University of Missouri at Columbia, with a bachelor's degree in economics. She and her husband moved to the Tyler area in 2012 to be closer to family and friends.

Mitch Andrews joined TJC in 2002, as director of principal gifts; and in 2012, he was named executive director of advancement and alumni engagement.

In his new role at TJC, Andrews heads the college's institutional advancement efforts and the TJC Foundation, which grew to more than \$47 million in assets and more than \$42 million in endowed funds.

Before joining TJC, he spent many years in Atlanta, Georgia, where he held arts development and marketing positions for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the Alliance Theatre Company, which are both divisions of the Robert W. Woodruff Arts Center.

Andrews holds an Associate Degree in Arts from TJC, a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Mississippi, and a Master of Public Administration from The University of Texas at Tyler. He and his wife, Joan, live in Tyler and have a son, Clayton.

## Japanese delegation tours Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center



*In October, TJC welcomed a delegation from Yachiyo, Japan, to campus as part of their Tyler Sister Cities visit. The group toured the new Robert M. Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center and got an up-close and personal look at the simulation labs and mannequins. The baby mannequins in the labor/delivery skills lab were especially popular!*



# ONCAMPUS

## Grand opening held for TJC's new, 248-bed Crossroads Hall

Just in time for the fall 2015 semester, Tyler Junior College officials held a ribbon-cutting and grand opening for Crossroads Hall, a new, 248-bed residential facility on the west side of the main campus.

The \$20-million, 63,000-square-foot residence hall brings TJC's on-campus population to about 1,300 students. TJC's total enrollment is approximately 11,000.

Located on Magnolia Avenue between Fifth and Lake streets, the four-story facility will house both freshmen and returning students. The first two floors are reserved for females, and the upper two floors are coed. All rooms are suite style, with two rooms sharing a bathroom.

Responding to feedback from student focus and advisory groups, Crossroads offers wireless Internet throughout the building, plenty of storage space, meeting and gathering areas for social interaction, a Chick-Fil-A Express restaurant, outlets to recharge technology and even a mobile app that students can download to determine when washing machines are available in the laundry room.



Construction on Crossroads Hall began in April 2014, under the guidance of SmithGroup JJR architects and HGR Turner construction.

## Family Learning Center of Tyler receives national accreditation

The Family Learning Center of Tyler, the laboratory school for Tyler Junior College's child development/early childhood programs, has received accreditation by the National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs.

An official announcement event was held in August at the center, located at 1508 N. Haynie in Tyler.

"We are thrilled about this designation, which represents a lot of hard work and dedication from our faculty and staff," Director Carrol McGlaun said.

As an accredited center, the Family Learning Center of Tyler has been recognized as an early care and education program exemplifying excellence in the care of young children.

The center provides a high-quality program for children, professional development opportunities for staff, and an environment for children that is conducive to their individual growth and development that exceeds state licensing requirements.

To receive the national accreditation designation, the center underwent an intensive self-study process in which administrators, staff and parents evaluated the program in accordance with strict accreditation standards.

After the self-study process, an on-site observation was conducted by an early childhood professional. Based on the information collected, the Family Learning Center of Tyler was awarded accreditation through the national commission.



The Family Learning Center of Tyler, the laboratory school for TJC's child development/early childhood programs, has received accreditation by the National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs.

The Family Learning Center of Tyler was established in 2007 as a collaborative project of the Literacy Council of Tyler, Tyler ISD and Tyler Junior College. It also serves as the Tyler Junior College child development/early childhood education laboratory school for college students preparing for careers in early childhood professions.



# ONCAMPUS

## TJC named one of top 150 community colleges in the nation

Highlighting the critical importance of improving student success in America's community colleges, the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program has named Tyler Junior College as one of the nation's top 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and \$1 million dollars in prize funds, as well as Siemens Technical Scholars Program student scholarships.

The Aspen Prize, awarded every two years, is the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges and recognizes institutions for exceptional student outcomes in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and access and success for minority and low-income students.

Tyler Junior College and 149 other community colleges were selected from a national pool of more than 1,000 public two-year colleges using publicly available data on student outcomes in three areas:

- Performance (retention, graduation rates including transfers, and degrees and certificates per 100 full-time equivalent students)



- Improvement (awarded for steady improvement in each performance metric over time)
- Equity (evidence of strong completion outcomes for minority and low-income students)

Tyler Junior College will apply for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence containing detailed data on degree and certificate completion (including progress and transfer rates), labor market outcomes (employment and earnings), and student learning outcomes.

Ten finalists will be named in fall 2016. The Aspen Institute will then conduct site visits to each of the finalists and collect additional quantitative data. A distinguished Prize Jury will select a grand prize-winner and a few finalists with distinction in early 2017.

TJC President Dr. Mike Metke said, "I have long felt that Tyler Junior College is among the finest two-year institutions in the country. It is gratifying and rewarding for our employees and students to learn that a prestigious, independent organization like the Aspen Institute finds excellence at our college as well."

A full list of the selected colleges and details on the selection process are available at [www.aspenprize.org](http://www.aspenprize.org).

## Ingersoll Rand donates training equipment to TJC Energy Center

Ingersoll Rand's residential HVAC business, manufacturers of Trane and American Standard Heating and Air Conditioning equipment, donated 16 residential split systems to TJC's Energy Center, located on the TJC West Campus.

The equipment was added to a new HVAC lab for technical training in TJC's state-of-the-art facility. The systems are in the 3-ton range and are applied as heat pumps and air conditioning systems with electric heat or gas heating appliances.

These systems are all current production and range from 14 SEER standard to 20 SEER variable speed heat pumps and air conditioners complete with various filtration applications and modern comfort controls and sensors.

The estimated value of Ingersoll Rand's residential HVAC contribution exceeds \$80,000.

"Training on the proper repair and maintenance of today's heating and air conditioning equipment is essential to providing adequate support," said Ted Crabtree, manager for Ingersoll Rand's Tyler plant. "We have a strong partnership with TJC that has been in place for many years. Providing this latest equipment to the new Energy Center is a win-win for our company and TJC students."

Dr. Clayton Allen, then-TJC associate vice president for instruction, said the donation will greatly enhance the program's



Equipment donated to TJC by Ingersoll Rand will better prepare HVAC students to enter the workforce. Pictured from left: Dr. Clayton Allen, former TJC associate vice president for instruction; Burt Wallace, TJC HVAC program coordinator and professor; Bryan Baker, TJC industrial trades department chair; Ted Crabtree, Ingersoll Rand Tyler plant manager; and Rhamy Morrison, Ingersoll Rand sales force development manager.

ability to prepare graduates of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning program for good-paying jobs.

"The Energy Center has provided this program twice the space it previously enjoyed in the Regional Training and Development Center," he said.

"This donation allows us to move today's best HVAC equipment into training rooms for the benefit of tomorrow's technicians."



# ONCAMPUS



*During a tour of the Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center, Paul Monagan, dean of TJC's School of Nursing and Health Sciences, provides Gyeongju University President Dr. Soonja Lee and the Korean delegation with a demonstration of the surgical technology skills lab.*

## TJC forms educational collaboration with Korean university

A four-member delegation from Gyeongju University in South Korea visited Tyler Junior College in January to tour the campus and discuss an educational exchange between the two institutions.

Gyeongju President Soonja Lee and professors Larry Chong, Chang su Park and JaiKwan Park toured the new Robert M. Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center, which features the latest technology for training TJC students in their chosen medical professions.

Paul Monagan, dean of the TJC School of Nursing & Health Sciences, guided the tour, which included stops in the center's dental clinic as well as high-tech learning labs for nursing, physical and occupational therapy, sleep study and surgical technology.

The Gyeongju group's Tyler visit is a continuation of their first meeting with TJC President Dr. Mike Metke, who in March 2014 led a group of TJC students, alumni and friends on an educational tour of South Korea, which included Gyeongju University.

The TJC group visited the Gyeongju University campus, where presidents Lee and Metke signed a memorandum of understanding between the two institutions. The Apache Belles also performed and the Gyeongju taekwon do team gave a demonstration.

"President Lee was so gracious on our trip to Korea," Metke said. "We were delighted to welcome them to TJC and show them our beautiful campus and our exciting programs."

The two presidents renewed their commitment to identify curriculum similarities and promote student-exchange opportunities.

"TJC is positioned to receive students from Gyeongju University, and we are convinced that they will have a wonderful experience, because of the commitment to excellence by our faculty and staff," said Dr. Juan Mejia, TJC provost and vice president for academic and student affairs.

Founded in 1988, GU's objective is to provide quality education programs for future leaders in various fields of the modern industrial society within the larger context of the educational goals of the Republic of Korea.

It is located in Gyeongju, North Gyeongsang province, South Korea.



*A delegation from Gyeongju University in South Korea visited Tyler Junior College to tour the campus and discuss an educational collaboration between the two institutions. Pictured front, from left: Paul Monagan, dean of the TJC School of Nursing and Health Sciences; Gyeongju President Dr. Soonja Lee; TJC President Dr. Mike Metke; second row, Dr. Juan Mejia, TJC provost and vice president for academic and student affairs; Amy McCullough, TJC alumna; top row, Gyeongju professors Larry Chong, JaiKwan Park and Chang su Park.*



## Two TJC students chosen as 2015 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholars

Tyler Junior College students and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society members Kaitlin Lenoir and Sabrah Shipman have been chosen as 2015 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholars and will each receive \$1,000 scholarships to further their education.

Lenoir is a sophomore psychology major from Plano.

Shipman is a sophomore advertising major from Big Sandy. She is in the TJC Honors Program.

In all, 207 Phi Theta Kappa members have been awarded a total of \$207,000 in Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise scholarships. Chosen from more than 900 applications worldwide, the scholars receive awards of \$1,000 each to further their associate's degree studies.

Independent judges evaluate the applications based on scholastic achievement, community service and leadership potential.

The Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program provides new Phi Theta Kappa members with financial resources to help defray educational expenses while enrolled in associate degree programs. Scholars are also encouraged to assume leadership roles by participating in Society programs.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation provides \$200,000 in funding for the scholarships, with up to \$25,000 set aside for members who are veterans or active members of the U.S. military.

The remaining amount is supported by donations to the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation and provides Leaders of Promise Global



Kaitlin Lenoir



Sabrah Shipman

Scholarships, earmarked for international students.

"The funds provided by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation not only aid college completion, but provide students with the opportunity to engage in Society programs and develop leadership skills to become future leaders in their communities," said Dr. Nancy Rieves, CEO of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation.

"Research shows that Phi Theta Kappa members are four times more likely to complete a college degree than their peers.

The Leaders of Promise Scholarships recognize students for what they have achieved already and assure that financial need is not an obstacle to achieving their academic goals."

"The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation has a long history of providing financial assistance to outstanding students at community colleges," said J. Mark Davis, president of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation.

"We are proud to partner with Phi Theta Kappa and make it possible for more deserving students to achieve their educational goals. Phi Theta Kappa members are proven scholars, engaged students who want to use their abilities to make a difference.

In designating \$200,000 for Leaders of Promise, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation is supporting tomorrow's leaders of the global community."



The TJC Law Enforcement Academy held a graduation ceremony on Dec. 11 for its 24th Basic Peace Officer Class. Thirteen graduates successfully completed the 19-week Basic Peace Officer Course as required by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Class valedictorian was Bud Barrett. TJC Law Enforcement Academy graduates pictured front, from left, David Russ, Tyler Police Department; Braylon Barnes, independent; Barrett Lewis, Tyler Police Department; Ethan Sala, Tyler Police Department; John Weiner, independent; April Molina, Tyler Police Department; Tyler Webb, Longview Police Department; back row, Murry Morie, Longview Police Department; David Denton, Quitman Police Department; Douglas Owen, Brownsboro Police Department; Bud Barrett, Tyler Fire Marshal's Office; Stacy Montgomery, Smith County Sheriff's Office; and Trevor Lowery, Smith County Sheriff's Office.



# ONCAMPUS

## TJC job-training grant project receives high marks from U.S. Department of Labor

In October, officials from the U.S. Department of Labor conducted an on-site program and financial review of the ACT-On Retail Management Careers Project at Tyler Junior College, and TJC received high marks.

The project is part of a \$12 million Department of Labor grant won by TJC and three other community colleges in 2012. TJC serves as the lead college in the consortium, which also includes: Cerritos (Calif.) College, Clackamas (Ore.) Community College, and the University of Alaska in Anchorage.

TJC – the only Texas institution chosen as a lead college in the program – heads the grant project that will build the capacity of the colleges to train Trade Adjustment Assistance-eligible and other adult workers for new careers in grocery retail management through an industry-endorsed curriculum and certificate that is highly valued in the grocery industry and will bring multiple employment opportunities.

The Department of Labor monitoring visit was conducted on site at TJC by a team of three monitors; however, records from all four campuses involved in the grant consortium were reviewed.

Criteria for the grant-monitoring visit covered five categories, including: design and governance, program and grant management systems, financial management systems, service/product delivery and performance accountability; and the program received favorable marks in all categories.

The TJC grant proposal stemmed from a retail management certificate program launched in 2012 through a partnership between TJC, Tyler-based Brookshire Grocery Company and the Western Association of Food Chains. The nine-course program prepares students for career opportunities and upward mobility in the retail industry, and credits earned can potentially apply to more advanced educational programs such as an associate's or bachelor's degree.



Officials from the U.S. Department of Labor recently conducted a successful on-site program and financial review of TJC's ACT-On Retail Management Careers Project. The project is part of a \$12 million Department of Labor grant won by TJC and three other community colleges in 2012. TJC is the lead college on the program which, by 2016, will train more than 2,600 participants to enter low- to mid-level management positions in retail and other related industries. Pictured from left: Deborah Welch, chair of the TJC business department; Lauren Miller, senior accountant; Daphanie Crawford, grant administrative assistant; Dana Welch, grant director; Patricia Weigel, financial analyst; Britt Sabota, associate grant director; and Dr. Juan Mejia, TJC provost and vice president for academic and student affairs.

"The greater Tyler area is extremely innovative when it comes to collaborative efforts among business and industry, the economic development corporations and chambers of commerce, and Tyler Junior College," said Dr. Juan Mejia, TJC provost and vice president for academic and student affairs.

"We are honored by the opportunity to collaborate with the Brookshire Grocery Company and their very capable leadership team."

By the end of the grant period in 2016, the ACT-On consortium will train and certify more than 2,600 students to enter low- to mid-level management positions in retail and other related industries.



Tyler Junior College's Fire Academy graduated 16 cadets in a ceremony held Nov. 10. The academy is a 12-week course filled with academic and practical applications to train students for fire service. The class was led by valedictorian Justin Willoughby and salutorian Latham Akins. Picture front, from left: Robert Pena, Tyler; Peyton Arnold, Forney; Shawn Jones, Ben Wheeler; Blaine Scoggins, Tyler; Garrett White, Carrollton; Ryan Jackson, Hamilton; Latham Akins, Grand Saline; second row, Brad Parish, Tyler; Jarrod Davis, Desoto; William Dickerson, Whitehouse; Zane Haley, Academy; Jeremy Minter, Oakwood; Justin Willoughby, Flint; Jacob Cheek, Mabank. Not pictured: Jeremy Simmons, Canton.



# ALUMNI NEWS

## MESSAGE FROM THE TJC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Dear Fellow Apaches,

It is definitely a privilege to serve as your president of the Tyler Junior College Alumni Association. I made my best friends and some of my best memories at Tyler Junior College. This awesome educational opportunity allowed me to pursue my bachelor's and master's degrees in business leading to a highly successful career with The Coca-Cola Company.

There are so many great things happening at TJC, I want to encourage you to get involved. From our winning athletic teams, successful programs and organizations to our new facilities, there is something for everyone! Join our alumni family and show your support by participating in events, promoting the college and recruiting new students.

The TJC Alumni Association strives to provide opportunities for you to partner with us to advance TJC. This is a fun organization with great perks that include:

- The Apache magazine with special features and news from former classmates
- A 10-percent discount at our Campus Bookstore (excluding sale items)

- Free admission to all home athletic events, alumni awards banquet and tailgate parties
- Tickets to TJC performing arts events
- Access to the Vaughn Library and guidance from the TJC Career Services Office
- Dependents are eligible to apply for alumni scholarships

You play a crucial role in helping us convey our alumni loyalty to increase TJC Alumni Association membership. This is my challenge to you:

- Join the TJC Alumni Association, if you're not already a member.
- If you have friends or relatives who are TJC alumni, urge them to join the association. <http://www.tjc.edu/alumni/JoinToday>
- If you are a member, get involved!

This is your alumni association. We value your input and encourage your participation.

*Amy Cunningham*

Feathers Up!  
Amy Bland Cunningham  
Class of 1990, Apache Belle Gold

## TJC Alumni Awards Dinner honors five outstanding individuals

TJC honored five outstanding individuals at the annual Alumni Awards Dinner held during 2015 Homecoming Week activities.

The awards program recognizes outstanding alumni and friends of the college for achievements in their industry, profession, life's work or service to TJC.

The 2015 honorees were: Barbara Bass '81, Distinguished Alumna Award; Gene Branum, retired TJC professor, Special Recognition Award; Eleanor Cameron, philanthropist, Black and Gold Award; Carmen Carpenter '02, Valuable Young Alumna Award; and State Sen. Kevin Eltife, Apache Spirit Award.

### Barbara Bass, '81 *Distinguished Alumna*

The Distinguished Alumna Award is the most prestigious award given by TJC. It recognizes a former student for distinguished professional achievement and distinctive contributions to society and, by doing so, has brought honor to the college.



Barbara Bass

Barbara Bass was part of the core group that opened the doors of the Gollob Morgan Peddy accounting firm in 1982. She has more than 35 years of experience in public accounting

and is responsible for a variety of tax clients and provides consultation for small businesses.

A graduate of Leadership Tyler's inaugural class, she is extremely involved in the Tyler community and has contributed her time and services to Tyler for many years. She was elected mayor of Tyler in May 2008 and completed her allowable terms in May 2014.

Bass graduated from Texas A&M University-Commerce with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting.

In addition to her service as mayor, her professional associations and activities include: member of the Tyler Economic Development Council Board; foundation treasurer of Pollard United



# ALUMNI NEWS

Methodist Church; past chairman of Hospice of East Texas; past chairman of Pollard United Methodist Church Administrative Board; past chairman of Tyler Economic Development Council; past chairman of Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce; past chairman of Better Business Bureau of Central East Texas; past president of East Texas Chapter of the Texas Society of CPAs; and past board member of Texas Society of CPAs.

She was one of the first benefactors of the new Robert M. Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center at TJC.

"Tyler Junior College is a critical component in our community," Bass said. "Our world-class community college provides a qualified workforce that meets the needs of area employers. TJC is the best investment we can make in our community to insure a better quality of life for our neighbors. With the medical industry being the No. 1 job-provider in Tyler, my husband and I were excited to join many very generous donors in support of the Robert M. Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center.

"As the former mayor of Tyler and as a CPA, I see an enormous economic impact since these are high-paying jobs with benefits," she said. "These students, their current or future families, and our entire community will benefit for years to come."

## Gene Branum

### *Special Recognition Award*

This award recognizes an individual for outstanding professional achievements, contributions to society, and/or service to their community thus bringing honor to the college.

Howard E. (Gene) Branum retired in 2015 as a TJC physics professor and department chair of engineering and physical sciences earlier this year, after 45 years of service.

"My time at TJC has been a true delight," Branum said. "The most positive thing is my relationship with the



Gene Branum

students, faculty, administration and staff. Watching students mature academically and socially has always been fun.

"The time I have spent with students outside of class doing service projects, providing physics

demonstrations for youth groups, going on field trips, taking them to physics conferences, advising them, encouraging them to do their very best, and then hearing from them after they have become successful in their field has always given me a sense of pride. Having my son as a student was also enjoyable."

Branum completed his bachelor's and master's degrees at Stephen F. Austin State University and enrolled in graduate studies at the College of William and Mary, Rutgers, Yale, Texas A&M University and Texas A&M-Commerce.

His students tell TJC administrators they will always remember Branum as engaging, kind, soft-spoken and as someone who had a genuine interest in their success.

Branum is a member of the American Association of Physics Teachers, the Texas Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers, the Texas Community College Teachers Association and the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers.

He received the Watson W. Wise Foundation Endowed Chair for Teaching Excellence Award in 2004 and was named Outstanding Instructor for the Division of Science and Mathematics in 1991.

He is an elder and trustee at Glenwood Church of Christ, a member of the East Texas Joint Engineers Banquet Committee, served on the advisory and exhibits committees for Discovery Science Place and was a member of the

board of visitors for the Department of Physics at Abilene Christian University.

Branum and his wife, Marion, have a son, Gene D. Branum, M.D., and two daughters, Lucy and Evelyn.

## Eleanor Cameron

### *Black and Gold Award*

This award recognizes outstanding devotion to Tyler Junior College by an individual who is not a former student but volunteers time and effort to promote the mission and goals of the college.

Eleanor Cameron's love of art began when she was a college freshman, and though she served in various capacities in finance and social work as the wife of a busy physician, she continued to give of her time and resources to art and art education.

The wife of Harold Cameron, M.D., Mrs. Cameron also developed a deep respect and interest in the nursing profession.

"The nursing profession was a major



Eleanor Cameron

part of Harold's life," she said recently. "When he first came to Tyler, it was very demanding. The role of the nurse in his work was very important."

When she learned of the planned Robert M. Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences

Center on TJC's main campus, she was quick to lend generous support.

"The center will be nationally known," she said. "It will draw students from all over because it is the best facility they can go to. You have to realize how much this is going to mean to the doctors in Tyler."

Mrs. Cameron graduated from Troup High School, studied at Stephens College then attended Southern Methodist University, where a friend introduced



# ALUMNI NEWS

her to Harold. The couple married in 1942, the same year she began working as Tyler's only caseworker for the Texas Department of Public Welfare.

World War II, a hospital internship and three years of residency for Dr. Cameron kept the couple moving until they decided to call Tyler their permanent home in 1949 – choosing the Rose City over Amarillo. Immediately, Mrs. Cameron became involved in the community, serving as a Picture Lady – delivering art history studies to school children – and as the first president of what would later become known as the Junior League of Tyler. She was instrumental in the establishment of the Tyler Museum of Art and the couple worked with friend Julietta Jarvis to establish the Cameron-J. Jarvis Library in Troup, a facility she continues to support and the hub of Troup community activities.

During his career, Dr. Cameron delivered approximately 10,000 babies, including the first baby delivered at East Texas Medical Center in 1951. He also is credited with delivering several babies who went on to become notable Tyler physicians. Since his death in 2013, Mrs. Cameron has continued to give of her time and resources to the Tyler Museum of Art, the Junior League of Tyler and other charitable causes through the Julietta Jarvis Foundation, which is managed by her son, Hal.

## Carmen Carpenter '02

### Valuable Young Alumna

This award recognizes an individual of integrity and stature for distinguished achievement in a business, profession or life work, or through outstanding service to Tyler Junior College.

Carmen Carpenter was born in Tyler and has resided here for two years. She and her husband, Matt, have been married for nine years and are the parents of Emma-Claire, 6.

She is a graduate of J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson and spent two years at TJC before transferring to



Carmen Carpenter

Texas Christian University, to earn her bachelor's degree in business, majoring in entrepreneurial management. The Carpenters are active members of Marvin United Methodist Church.

"My husband and I are happy to call Tyler home," she said. "The decision to relocate to Tyler to raise our family, while growing our careers, has proven to be perfect timing. Having lived in a larger community, we have a greater appreciation of Tyler and what it has to offer its citizens."

Outside of her role as an assistant vice president of lending with Texas Bank and Trust in Tyler, Mrs. Carpenter is a member of the board of directors for Goodwill Industries of East Texas, a member of the Women's Board for Trinity Mother Frances Hospital, a Tyler Rotary Club member, a member of the Contact Club for the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, chairman for the Tyler Young Professionals Network, and also serves as the bank liaison for the Good Cents financial literacy program at TJC, sponsored by Texas Bank and Trust.

The two years that Mrs. Carpenter spent at TJC were influential in her transitioning to a private university. She studied pre-business while on a music scholarship and she performed with Harmony & Understanding all four semesters at TJC, and was cast in the annual TJC musicals, "Footloose" and "Crazy For You."

Mrs. Carpenter is the current chairman for the Tyler Young Professionals Network (TYPN), a non-profit group directly affiliated with the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce. This organization is made up of emerging Tyler business people who meet regularly to network and work hand in hand with established business and community

leaders to shape local economic development. She enjoys volunteering her time to assist aspiring young professionals. Her goal is to provide them with the opportunity to advance their careers, develop stronger interpersonal skills, and make an impact on the community, all while creating a network of peers that can serve as a resource now and in the future.

## State Sen. Kevin Eltife

### Apache Spirit Award

This award recognizes any person or group who has shown spirit and motivation through the contribution of time and energy to a program or activity that measurably benefited Tyler Junior College.

Kevin P. Eltife was sworn in as District 1 State Senator on March 5, 2004, after serving three terms as mayor of Tyler.

During his tenure as mayor, he put the city on a "pay-as-you-go" plan to reduce general obligation bond debt while cutting the city property tax rate by 50 percent. In 1997, Eltife was appointed by then-Gov. George W. Bush to serve on the Texas Higher Education



State Sen. Kevin Eltife

Coordinating Board. Among the recognitions he has received for public service, the Texas Junior Chamber of Commerce selected him as one of Five Outstanding Young Texans in 1998.

Active in his community,

Eltife has volunteered with a variety of organizations including the East Texas Food Bank, Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce and Hospice of East Texas.

During the 84th Legislative session, Eltife introduced legislation to allow TJC to offer a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene. As a companion to a bill by State Rep. Travis Clardy, Eltife's bill made it through the Legislature and became



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law on June 21. It was the only such degree-related bill to pass during the session.

At the close of the session, Eltife was elected as the Texas Senate's President pro tempore.

A Tyler native, Senator Eltife is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin. He is the owner of Eltife

Properties and resides in Tyler with his wife, Kelly, and sons, Walker and Jack.

Eltife has received the "Freedom to Teach" award by the Association of Texas Professional Educators and was named a "Champion for Free Enterprise" by the Texas Association of Business. In 2007, the Texas Municipal League named him "Legislator of the Year." The Texas

Association of Realtors gave him a "Hall of Fame" award in 2011. Also in 2011, he received an "Honorable Mention" from Texas Monthly magazine, which also recognized him in 2007 for being "tough, pragmatic, independent and a problem-solver." In 2014, the Texas Press Association gave Eltife the "Friend of the First Amendment" award.



AT LEFT: The TJC Alumni Association had prominent representation at the annual drumbeat ceremony kicking off TJC Homecoming Week activities. This year's homecoming theme was "Unmask Your Spirit and Feel the Beat." Pictured from left: Manuel Riveria; Robert Reed; Wanda Ealey, past president; Christina Mosier; Amy Cunningham, president; Carleta Cates; Don Fraser, director of alumni affairs; and Doc Deason.

AT RIGHT: Alumni also showed their spirit and bead-tossing talents in the TJC Homecoming Parade. Pictured from left: Amy Cunningham, president; Danny Mogle; Carol Beggs; Laura Farmer; and Vickie Stofle.





## COMING ATTRACTIONS

**TJC Spring Musical:  
'The Drowsy Chaperone'**

7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday-Saturday, Feb. 24-27  
Wise Auditorium

**TJC Wind Ensemble Concert**

7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 3  
Wise Auditorium

**TJC Jazz Festival**

7:30 p.m.  
Thursday and Friday, March 17 and 18  
Wise Auditorium

**TJC Forensics Team Showcase**

5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14  
Jean Browne Theatre

**DanceFest 2016**

7 p.m. Friday, April 16  
2 p.m. Saturday, April 17  
Wise Auditorium

**Spring Jazz Band Concert**

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 26  
Wise Auditorium

**Theatre TJC: 'Theophilus North'**

7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday-Saturday, April 27-30  
2 p.m. Sunday, May 1  
Jean Browne Theatre

**TJC Spring Choral Concert**

6 p.m. Friday, April 29  
First Presbyterian Church, Tyler

**Percussion Ensembles Concert**

7:30 p.m. Monday, May 2  
Wise Auditorium

**TJC Spring Band Concert**

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 3  
Wise Auditorium

**Harmony & Understanding's  
'Broadway Blast'**

7:30 p.m.  
Thursday and Friday, May 5 and 6  
Wise Auditorium

*For more events,  
go to [tjc.edu/PerformingArts](http://tjc.edu/PerformingArts).*